

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless communication apparatus having wireless communication means for carrying out data communication with wireless communication equipment, the  
5 wireless communication apparatus comprising:

judgment means for making a judgment as to whether or not the wireless communication means is within a coverage area of the wireless communication equipment; and

operation control means for activating the wireless  
10 communication means only in the case where a result of the judgment by the judgment means is affirmative.

2. The wireless communication apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising lighting means whose state of lighting changes in accordance with a communication state  
15 between the wireless communication means and the wireless communication equipment.

3. The wireless communication apparatus according to Claim 1, the judgment means further comprising:

mobile phone communication means for carrying out  
20 data communication via a mobile phone communication network, wherein

the mobile phone communication means receives base station information representing a base station of the mobile phone communication network that carries out the  
25 data communication with the mobile phone communication means and the judgment means judges whether or not the wireless communication means is within the coverage area of the wireless communication equipment by judging whether or not the base station represented by the base station  
30 information has a coverage area including the coverage area of the wireless communication equipment.

4. The wireless communication apparatus according to

Claim 1, the judgment means further comprising:

mobile phone communication means for carrying out data communication via a mobile phone communication network, wherein

5       the mobile phone communication means receives base station information representing a base station of the mobile phone communication network that carries out the data communication with the mobile phone communication means, and the judgment means judges whether or not the  
10 wireless communication means is within the coverage area of the wireless communication equipment by judging whether or not the base station represented by the base station information has a coverage area including the coverage area of the wireless communication equipment of a specific  
15 characteristic.

5. The wireless communication apparatus according to Claim 1, the judgment means further comprising:

GPS reception means for receiving GPS information from GPS satellites, wherein

20       the judgment means judges whether or not the wireless communication means is within the coverage area of the wireless communication equipment, based on the GPS information.

6. The wireless communication apparatus according to  
25 Claim 1, the judgment means further comprising:

GPS reception means for receiving GPS information from GPS satellites, wherein

the judgment means judges whether or not the wireless communication means is within the coverage area of the  
30 wireless communication equipment of a specific characteristic, based on the GPS information.

7. An imaging apparatus comprising:

the wireless communication apparatus according to Claim 1;

image capturing means for obtaining image data;

authentication information storage means for storing  
5 authentication information that is necessary for the data communication with the wireless communication equipment via the wireless ;

image storage means for storing the image data obtained by the imaging means; and

10 control means for causing the judgment means to judge whether or not the wireless communication means is within the coverage area of the wireless communication equipment in the case where the image data are stored in the image storage means, and for controlling the wireless  
15 communication means so as to send the authentication information stored in the authentication information storage means to the wireless communication equipment by carrying out the data communication with the wireless communication equipment when the operation control means  
20 activates the wireless communication means, and so as to send the image data in the image storage means to the wireless communication equipment after the wireless communication equipment authenticates the imaging apparatus according to the authentication information.

25 8. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the control is also means for prohibiting roaming in the case where the wireless communication means has been moved to a coverage area of other wireless communication equipment that is not authenticated by the authentication  
30 information but enables roaming with the wireless communication equipment that is authenticated by the authentication information, during the data communication

with the wireless communication equipment that is authenticated.

9. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the operation control means inactivates the wireless communication means after the image data that were  
5 store in the image storage means have been sent.

10. An imaging apparatus comprising;  
image capturing means for obtaining image data;  
wireless communication means for carrying out data  
10 communication with wireless communication equipment via a wireless ;

authentication information storage means for storing authentication information that is necessary for the data communication with the wireless communication equipment via  
15 the wireless ;

image storage means for storing the image data obtained by the imaging means;

instruction means for receiving a transfer instruction regarding the image data stored in the image  
20 storage means; and

control means for controlling the wireless communication means so as to send the authentication information stored in the authentication information storage means to the wireless communication equipment by  
25 carrying out the data communication with the wireless communication equipment in the case where the transfer instruction is received by the instruction means in a state where the image data are stored in the image storage means, and so as to send the image data stored in the image  
30 storage means to the wireless communication equipment after the wireless communication equipment authenticates the imaging apparatus according to the authentication

information.

11. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 10 further comprising:

5 search means for carrying out a search for pieces of the wireless communication equipment that are communicable with the wireless communication means, in response to an external instruction input;

10 display means for displaying a list of the pieces of the wireless communication equipment as a result of the search carried out by the search means; and

selection means for receiving selection of a desired one of the pieces of the wireless communication equipment from the result of the search, wherein

15 the control means controls the wireless communication means so as to send the authentication information stored in the authentication information storage means to the selected piece of the wireless communication equipment by carrying out the data communication with the selected piece of the wireless communication equipment in the case where  
20 the desired piece of the wireless communication equipment has been selected from the search result and the transfer instruction is received by the instruction means in a state where the image data are stored in the image storage means, and so as to send the image data stored in the image  
25 storage means to the selected piece of the wireless communication equipment after the selected piece of the wireless communication equipment authenticates the imaging apparatus according to the authentication information.

12. The imaging apparatus according to Claim 11,  
30 wherein the search means searches for pieces of wireless communication equipment including wireless communication equipment that enables roaming with the wireless

communication equipment authenticated by the authentication information, in addition the wireless communication equipment authenticated by the authentication information, and wherein

5           the display means displays the types of a plurality of pieces of wireless communication equipment in the case where the wireless communication means is communicable with the plurality of pieces of wireless communication equipment including the wireless communication equipment  
10       authenticated by the authentication information and/or the pieces of wireless communication equipment searched for by the search means.

13.   The imaging apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the display means displays a communication charge  
15       for the pieces of wireless communication equipment searched for by the search means.

14.   The imaging apparatus according to Claim 11, the search means further comprising mobile phone communication means for carrying out data communication via a mobile  
20       phone communication network, wherein

          the mobile phone communication means receives base station information representing a base station of the mobile phone communication network via which the data communication with the mobile phone communication means is  
25       carried out, and the search means searches for the pieces of the wireless communication equipment that are communicable with the wireless communication means, based on the base station information.

15.   The imaging apparatus according to Claim 11, the  
30       search means further comprising GPS reception means for receiving GPS information from GPS satellites, wherein

          the search mean searches for the pieces of the

wireless communication equipment that are communicable with the wireless communication means, based on the GPS information.